

Date

Sergeant Travis J. Colombel  
Louisiana State Police  
Troop C  
4047 West Park Avenue  
Gray, Louisiana 70359

**Re: Ethics Board Docket No. 2021-100**

Dear Sgt. Colombel:

The Louisiana Board of Ethics, at its April 9, 2021 meeting, considered your request for an advisory opinion as to whether you may have an ownership interest in a company which contracts with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

### **FACTS PROVIDED**

You are currently an Administrative Sergeant with the Louisiana State Police ("LSP"), and have been employed by the LSP since 1998. Your wife is a nurse in private practice. You and your wife desire to own a grass maintenance company which would bid on contracts with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD").

### **LAWS**

**La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a)** states that no public servant, or a member of such a public servant's immediate family, or a legal entity in which he has a controlling interest shall bid on or enter into any contract, subcontract or other transaction that is under the supervision or jurisdiction of the agency of such public servant.

**La. R.S. 42:1102(8)** defines "controlling interest" to mean any ownership in any legal entity or beneficial interest in a trust, held by or on behalf of an individual or a member of his immediate family, either individually or collectively, which exceeds twenty-five percent of that legal entity.

### **ANALYSIS**

As an employee of the LSP, the LSP is your agency. The contracts your potential business would seek to bid upon would be under the supervision of the DOTD. As the LSP and the DOTD are separate and distinct agencies, this would not be a violation of La. R.S. 42:1113A(1)(a).

## CONCLUSION

The Board concluded, and instructed me to inform you, that the Code of Governmental Ethics would not prohibit you, as an employee of the LSP, to have a controlling interest in a company that would bid on contracts with the DOTD.

This advisory opinion is based solely on the facts as set forth herein. Changes to the facts as presented may result in a different application of the provisions of the Code of Ethics. The Board issues no opinion as to past conduct or as to laws other than the Code of Governmental Ethics. If you have any questions, please contact me at (800) 842-6630 or (225) 219-5600.

Sincerely,

**LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS**

---

Charles E. Reeves, Jr.  
For the Board

**DISCLAIMER**  
This is a draft opinion and it is **NOT** an opinion of the Louisiana Board of Ethics. The analysis and conclusions herein are provided for discussion purposes only and are subject to change or revision at the meeting of the Board of Ethics at which this matter is considered.